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Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. - 21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) A method of treating at least one of diabetes and complications arising from diabetes in a subject in need of such treatment, wherein the method comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a mixture of polylactic acids having a condensation degree of 3 to 19.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the subject is a mammal.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the mammal is a human.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the mixture of polylactic acids comprises straight chain polylactic acids.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the mixture of polylactic acids

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comprises cyclic polylactic acids.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the polylactic acids comprise L-lactic acid repeating units.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the polylactic acids consist essentially of L-lactic acid repeating units.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the diabetes is type II diabetes.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the mixture of polylactic acids comprises a fraction obtained by a process which comprises condensing lactic acid by dehydration under an inactive atmosphere, subjecting the ethanol- or methanol-soluble fraction of the obtained reaction solution to reverse phase column chromatography, and eluting with 25 to 50 weight % acetonitrile aqueous solution of pH 2 to 3 and then with 90 weight % or more acetonitrile aqueous solution of pH 2 to 3.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the dehydration comprises stepwise decompression and temperature rise under nitrogen gas atmosphere.

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32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the reverse phase column chromatography comprises ODS column chromatography.

33. (currently amended) A method of preventing diabetes in a subject in need thereof, wherein the method comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a mixture of polylactic acids having a condensation degree of 3 to 19.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the subject is a mammal.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the mammal is a human.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the mixture of polylactic acids comprises straight chain polylactic acids.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the mixture of polylactic acids comprises cyclic polylactic acids.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the polylactic acids comprise L-lactic acid repeating units.

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39. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the polylactic acids consist essentially of L-lactic acid repeating units.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the diabetes is type II diabetes.

41. (currently amended) A method of preventing complications arising from diabetes in a subject in need thereof, wherein the method comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a mixture of polylactic acids having a condensation degree of 3 to 19.

42. (previously presented) A method of reducing the blood sugar level in a subject, wherein the method comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a mixture of polylactic acids having a condensation degree of 3 to 19.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the subject is a human.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the polylactic acids consist essentially of L-lactic acid repeating units.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein hyperglycemia is treated.

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46. (previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the hyperglycemia is due to a condition selected from organic disorder of pancreatic tissues, chronic hepatopathy, endocrinopathy, brain hypertension, adiposis, hyperphagia, crapula of alcohol, postgastrectomy, nutritional hyperglycemia, fibrile disease, carbon monoxide poisoning, increase of blood sugar due to drugs, and combinations thereof.